

Appl. No. 10/099,901
Amdt. dated August 3, 2006
Reply to Office Action of May 4, 2006

PATENT

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [08] with the following amended paragraph:

[08] One or more gateways may also convert videoconferencing signals from one digital format to another, such as from H.320 to H.323, and transmit converted signals over the Internet. H.320 is an ITU standard for videoconferencing over digital lines, and it uses the H.261 video compression method, which allows H.320-compliant videoconferencing and desktop systems to communicate with each other over ISDN, switched digital lines and leased lines. H.323 is an ITU standard for real-time, interactive voice and videoconferencing over LANs and the Internet. Widely used for IP telephony, H.323 allows any combination of voice, video and data to be transported. H.323 specifies several video codecs, including H.261 and H.263, and audio codecs, including G.711 and G.723.1. Unfortunately, the audio and video standards have grown well beyond H.320, H.323, G.711, and G.723.1. That is, the proliferation of different standards has caused difficulty in communicating messages between them. Additionally, any communication between such standards has caused a proliferation of complex conversion techniques, which are time consuming and lack efficiency. Accordingly, there is a need for an efficient way to convert information or transcode between various formats in real time. Because some systems such H.320 and H.324 are circuit switched systems (data is transmitted as a continuous stream of bits) and some other systems are packet based, the connection of circuit-based to ~~packet~~ packet based systems require the demultiplexing of bits from circuit based bitstreams into packet (circuit-to-packet) and vice versa (packet-to-circuit). Note that different system protocols such as H.320, H.323, H.324, 3GPP-324M, SIP and SDP, make use of different signaling methods (to setup connections and exchange terminal capabilities). The inter-connectivity of these systems require the trans-signaling and the ~~conversion~~ conversion of terminal capabilities so terminal can understand what terminals using different protocols are capable of.